



Fire Chief Steve Earley  
3085 St. Lawrence Ave  
Riverside CA 92504  
951-826-5321  
[www.riversideca.gov/fire](http://www.riversideca.gov/fire)

# the General Alarm

Feb 2012

**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

## Division Chief Dave Lesh Reaches for New Heights

The following article was published in the Riverside Press-Enterprise on 2/8/12 "Riverside Firefighter Conquers Fear of Heights":

When Riverside Fire Department Division Chief Dave Lesh was 16, he joined a friend for a hiking trip at the Grand Canyon. At a steep slope, Lesh was so overcome by his fear of heights that he crawled 20 feet along the trail to maintain contact with the ground.

When Lesh returned to his family home in Cherry Valley, he confronted his fear. "I got into rock climbing in high school because of the one fear I hadn't been able to conquer," Lesh said. "Whenever I'm on a mountain or a cliff's edge, there's definitely fear."

Lesh has climbed Alaska's Denali (also known as Mount McKinley), at 20,320 feet the highest mountain in North America. He's climbed Argentina's Aconcagua, at 22,835 feet the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere. He took his son, Joshua, now 23, to Tanzania for the climb up Africa's tallest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,340 feet, in 2007. (continued on page 4)







# the General Alarm



Feb 2012

**Email from Renee Griffin to all RFD Personnel on Feb 3:** All RFD personnel, present and past: On Wednesday February 1st, Hunter Botkin's school Saint Jeanne DeLestonnac, held the 3rd fundraiser for the Eric Botkin Memorial Fund. This fundraiser was part of the day of activities to recognize, reach out and thank those who serve in the military and public services. After the Botkin's battle with Eric's cancer, Hallie had suggested that they could give the funds in Eric's name to help other firefighter families that find themselves in similar situations.

It was an honor and pleasure to be there with Hunter and Hallie when Eric's turn-out boots, held by Hunter, were being filled with all the donations coming in that morning from the entire school. Hallie, Hunter and the school were so appreciative of the support that was there from RFD. This includes: Steve Jeremiah, Rod Nash, Garrett Coryell, Shawn Haney and Dave Nash....outstanding!\*

Hunter is now a 7th grader and is growing like a weed and is looking more and more like Eric the older he gets. Which made it all the more classic move when Hunter reached into his pocket and slapped down the RFD challenge coin. We were all caught off guard, so we all tossed in some cash to start off Eric's fill the boot! Well done Hunter.

Last year Hallie brought a big envelope filled with over \$300.00 to Family Day and asked that we put it with the other money raised to go to the Anderson Family. This year that envelope contained \$580.00! Hallie requested that the money still go directly to the Anderson Family and that was their way of "paying it forward".

I don't know what else I can add to that except,  
Thank you, thank you, thank you

Eric...you are deeply missed, but not forgotten!

\*Honorable mention to Bob Markin, who got his days mixed up and showed up on Thursday morning instead, but treated them to breakfast for his tardiness;-)

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## Birthdays



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Feb 2012



### March Birthdays

Shawn Bauer	3/23
Marciano Duran	3/29
Brad Fike	3/17
LaWayne Hearn	3/4
Robert Herrick	3/20
Wayne Hess	3/9
Steve Hill	3/27
Trey Janeway	3/21
David Juarez	3/28
Bart Kennedy	3/26
Tom Kleveno	3/25
Ray Mendoza	3/3
Pat Mullen	3/5
Rod Nash	3/23
Jesse Norton	3/17
Dru Odil	3/4
Joe Reed	3/13
Scott Richmond	3/16
Garen Roehl	3/30
Joe Rosales	3/3
Jeff Rowe	3/12
Mike Weatherbie	3/22
Mitch Wesche	3/25

## 2012 RCFA 1067 Retirement Party

March 31, 2012  
Riverside Convention Center  
6pm

### Honoring

Deputy Chief Oran Pentz  
Battalion Chief Dave Campos  
Battalion Chief Jeff Dredla  
Captain John Russell  
Captain Bob Markin  
Firefighter Jeff Larson  
Trng Secretary Linda Daugherty  
FF/PM Scott Semer

Cost is \$35 for active and retired  
members



Anthony Frausto completes annual  
testing of Level A haz mat suits

For information,  
contact Tony Perna  
at Downtown Fire Station or call  
909-363-6875





## Lesh (cont from Page 1)

Feb 2012

This summer, Lesh, 50, will join fellow Riverside firefighter Matt Mathis to climb Mount Elbrus in Russia, at 18,481 feet the highest peak in Europe. They are climbing to raise money for the fight against pediatric cancer.

Lesh lives with his wife, Vanessa, in Cherry Valley. They have three children. Vanessa Lesh is aware of her husband's fear of heights. "At first, I had a hard time believing it considering all my husband has done," she said. "He is a very determined person. He was able to work his way through it."

Lesh heads the Urban Search and Rescue division in Riverside. A picture frame on one wall of his office holds the badges of the ranks he's held during 28 years in the fire service. Other walls hold pictures of the mountains he's climbed and the one he hasn't, Mount Everest, the biggest of them all.

He once turned down a chance to climb Everest because he was concerned at the time about leaving his wife and young children behind. Also, the \$35,000 cost was prohibitive.

Lesh said he is not fazed by dangerous situations as a firefighter. He said he didn't suffer fear on ladders, because he has a secure grasp on the rungs.

"When you understand fire and you have the training to handle different situations, it allows you to work through that," said Lesh. "I've been in a garage fire when a five-gallon gas tank blew up. You're so busy fighting the fire you don't pay attention until afterward."

He was sent to New York immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and was working at ground zero in New York on Sept. 12 when there was apprehension that other buildings would collapse. When alarms went off signaling buildings were about to tumble, he kept his cool. No other buildings fell that day.

Lesh took a two-week mountaineering course in the Cascades in Washington. That's where he met his climbing partner, Jim Doenges, of Littleton, Colo.

They tuned up for Denali by scaling Mount Rainier, a 14,411-foot peak in Washington, in 1988. Doenges said he saw Lesh reading a bible in the tent one night. Doenges said Lesh's religious faith was so sincere that it converted him from a nonbeliever into a Christian.

The two are linked by a rope on steep climbs.

"When I rope up with Dave, I feel completely safe," Doenges said. "He is a completely competent mountain climber. I feel he will make good decisions. He is a beast."



More Mail...

# the General Alarm

Feb 2012



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

MORONGO  
BAND OF  
MISSION  
INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION

To: Fire Chief Steve Earley  
City of Riverside Fire Department

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians Fire Department would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the City of Riverside Fire Department and the Honor Guard for your contribution and participation at the Phil Kelleher Celebration of Life held in Cherry Valley, CA on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Honor Guard represented your Department in the finest form, with all the dignity and respect that the day demanded. There is no doubt that the event was more fitting thanks in no small part to the efforts and courtesies of the Honor Guard and each member of your Department present.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Beadle".

Tim Beadle  
Acting Fire Chief, Morongo Fire Department  
951-755-5098 – Office  
951-217-2002 – Cell

## In Sympathy....

Phil Kelleher, retired Morongo Fire Department Chief and longtime fire academy instructor, passed away on Feb 17. A "Celebration of Life" service was held on Feb 24 at the Fellowship in the Pass in Beaumont. RFD Honor Guard members and Division Chief Dave Lesh attended the ceremony. Donations may be made to the Kelleher Family at 39810 High St, Cherry Valley, CA 92223 or in memory of Phil to <http://www.als-mda.org/> for ALS research.



## Elks Lodge Visit

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Truck 1-B made an appearance at the Elks Lodge on February 11 to check out their chili cook off and classic car show. Crew members were treated with chili and then presented show and tell to about 50 adults and children. A highlight for the crowd was getting a structure response and rolling out code 3. Members of the lodge were very thankful for our appearance. Thank you to BC Blair for allowing us to stop by.



**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

## Congratulations

**6 Month Probation:** Matt Rodriguez, Lovieanne Jung

**12 Month Probation:** Jesse Norton, Kevin Whitaker

**Engine Certification:** Brian Russell, Hector Calvillo, Chris Naron

### **New Hires:**

*Operations:* FF Zachary Pettikas, FF/PM Jonathan Reyes, FF/PM Jeremy Sandiford, FF/PM Jesus Macias, FF Kyle Phillips

*Office of Emergency Management/Regional Catastrophic Planning Team:*  
Patrick Watters and Mark Annas



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## RIC Training

Feb 2012



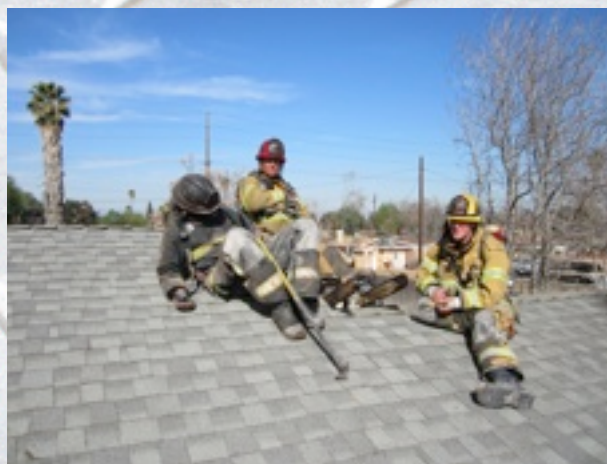


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## PHOTO ALBUM



**Streeter Training Burn**



Below: S1 crew is locked out of their vehicle



Above: E7 and E8 respond to traffic accident in La Sierra





**Childhood  
cancer  
takes.**

**St. Baldrick's**

StBaldricks.org

888.889.BALD

Not for sale in U.S. only



### The Mission of team Climb For Five:

"To climb to the summit of different peaks around the world, and while doing so, raising money for cancer research, all the time promoting the organization's goals by dedicating each day of the climb to each of the St. Baldrick's Childhood Ambassadors."

Each of the climbs will have at least five legs ("Climb For Five") and each leg will honor one of the five St. Baldrick's Child Ambassadors, who in turn symbolize the startling statistic that one in five children will lose their battle with cancer. Each of the children are in different stages of treatment, and each represents a different form of cancer. Like other child ambassadors before them, these five children will put a name and face to childhood cancer.

### Team overview:

What began as a group of three guys committed to climbing a different summit each year to support kids with cancer has now developed into a dedicated and experienced team of six. The original three have already summited Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341') in Africa and Mt. Rainier (14,411') in Washington State. Our next climb is taking us to Russia, to ascend Mt. Elbrus (18,510'), the highest peak in Europe! This will be the six person team's first international climb together, a twelve day expedition and will begin to set the foundation for future climbs of the Seven Summits.

Each climber has dedicated themselves not only to the climb, but also to fundraising for St. Baldrick's Foundation. We have each committed to raising \$5,000 through our own personal donations, our friends and family, as well as corporate donations and sponsorships. All contributions can be made online at each participant's website and are tax deductible. Please provide a gift today!

## Mt. Elbrus

- ▲ Caucasus Range, Russia.
- ▲ Border of Asia and Europe 18,510'
- ▲ One of the "Seven Summits"
- ▲ Highest mountain in Europe
- ▲ Perpetually snow covered with 22 glaciers



[stbaldricks.com/participants/mattmathis](http://stbaldricks.com/participants/mattmathis)

Mt. Whitney	Mt. Shasta
14,505'	14,179'
Mt. Whitney	Mt. Rainier
14,505'	14,411'



[stbaldricks.com/participants/davidlesh](http://stbaldricks.com/participants/davidlesh)

Mt. Whitney	Mt. Rainier
14,505'	14,411'
Mt. Denali	Mt. Aconcagua
20,327'	22,841'
Mt. Kilimanjaro	Base Camp Everest!
19,341'	